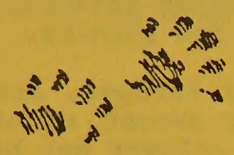
TRAPPING REGULATIONS MONTANA 1984-85



DEFINITIONS

Fur-bearing animals as defined by the law are marten or sable, otter, muskrat, fisher, mink, bobcat, lynx, wolverine, northern swift fox, and beaver. ONLY RESIDENTS MAY TRAP FURBEARERS. LICENSE REQUIRED.

Predatory animals are coyote, weasel, skunk and civet cat, LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS.

Nongame wildlife means any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples of nongame wildlife with commercial value are badger, raccoon and red fox. LICENSE REQUIRED FOR NONRESIDENT TRAPPERS.

LICENSES

Licenses are available from Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices in Kalispell, Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, Miles City and Helena.

General Trapper: $20; available to residents with conservation licenses only.

Landowner Trapper: $1 plus the prerequisite conservation license. Applicants must give legal description of land owned or leased, name, address, Resident Conservation License Number, and $1 fee.

Nonresident C2 Predator and Nongame Wildlife Trapper: $250; available only to residents of states that sell nonresident trapper licenses to Montana residents.

FUR DEALER'S LICENSE: Resident Fur Dealer - $10; Fur Dealer Agent - $10; Nonresident Fur Dealer - $50.

FUR DEALER DEFINED: Any person or persons, firm, company or corporation engaging in carrying on, or conducting wholly or in part the business of buying or selling, trading, or dealing within the State of Montana, in the skins or pelts of any animal or animals, designated by the laws of Montana as furbearing or predatory animals, shall be deemed a fur dealer within the meaning of the act. If such fur dealer resides in or if his or its principal place of business is within the State of Montana, he or it shall be deemed a resident fur dealer. All other fur dealers shall be deemed nonresident fur dealers.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

PERMISSION: Resident trappers must obtain permission of landowners before trapping on private land. Nonresidents must obtain written permission from the landowner, lessee or his agent before trapping or snaring predatory and nongame wildlife on private property.

DOGS: Dogs may be used to take bobcat. All other fur-bearing animals may be taken only by trapping or snaring.

IDENTIFICATION: Metal identification tags that bear the name and address of the trapper must be fastened to all traps and snares. Snares must also have telephone numbers included on the tag. Landowners who trap with permit on their own lands and irrigation rights-of-way contiguous to their land do not need to tag traps or snares.

5,000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of $0.35 per copy for a total cost of $175.00 which includes $150.00 for printing and $25.00 for distribution.

SNARES: It is unlawful to set snares on private property without the landowner's consent. Snares must be set in a manner and at a time so as not to duly endanger livestock. A trapper who injures livestock in a snare is liable for damages.

PRESERVES, DEPARTMENT LANDS: All state game preserves are open to trapping. Trapping on Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks lands will be allowed by written authorization of the area manager or a department employee on lands not having a resident manager.

LIVE FURBEARERS: Live fur-bearing animals may not be possessed except under the provisions of the fur farm or roadside zoo permits.

CLOSURES: All National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and Indian Trust or Tribal Trust lands, closed to trapping except as otherwise specified. Permits to trap on National Wildlife Refuges may be issued by the Refuge Manager.

EXPORT: A federal export permit is required in addition to a Montana state tag before the pelts of bobcat, Canada lynx and river otter may be exported from the U.S.

CARCASSES (WOLVERINE, FISHER AND SWIFT FOX): It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all wolverine and fisher be turned in to the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples shall be suitable for lab analysis.

Any wolverine or fisher pelt that is presented for tagging without the carcass in good condition shall be subject to confiscation. Complete carcass of accidentally trapped swift fox must be turned in to FWP personnel if animal cannot be released alive.

DESTROYING MUSKRAT AND BEAVER HOUSES: It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, open or leave open, a house of muskrat or beaver, except that this shall not prohibit trapping in the house of muskrats when authorized by the Commission.

CHECKING AND PLACING TRAPS: Traps should be checked at least once every 48 hours.

No trap or snare should be set within 30 feet of exposed baits consisting of animal or bird carcasses to prevent accidental trapping of raptors. It is unlawful to disturb traps or trapped animals belonging to another without permission.

TAGGED FURBEARERS: A number of fur-bearing animals have been ear tagged for scientific study. If one of these animals is captured, please notify the nearest game warden or regional office of the tag number or numbers and the locality of the capture.

PELT TAGGING

Beaver pelts taken within Trapping Districts 1, 2, 3 and that portion of District 7 along the Yellowstone River from the bridge at Custer to Highway 22 bridge at Miles City must be tagged by FWP personnel residing in the district where taken prior to sale or transfer, or within 10 days following the closure of the applicable season. Untagged hides will be subject to confiscation. Beaver pelts taken in Trapping Districts 4, 5, 6 and the remainder of 7 do not require tagging.

Otter, marten, wolverine, and fisher pelts, must be tagged by the FWP personnel residing in the district where pelts were taken no later than 10 days after close of the open season.

Bobcat and Canada lynx pelts must be tagged by FWP personnel residing in the trapping district where the cats were killed, within 72 hours of taking. The species, trapping district, date and tag number will be permanently recorded on the back of the trapper's license when pelts are tagged. Bobcat or lynx pelts not presented to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for tagging within 72 hours of taking are subject to confiscation. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will not collect bobcat and lynx carcasses this season.

TAKING OF FUR ANIMALS DURING THE OPEN SEASON BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN TRAPPING OR SNARING IS PROHIBITED, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

January 1, 1985, through March 15, 1985: Trapping District 2, except the Clearwater River drainage which is open to beaver trapping from January 1, 1985 through February 15, 1985; the Clark Fork River above Garrison and all tributaries which is open from January 1, 1985 through March 31, 1985; and the Blackfoot and Nevada Creek drainages and all tributaries above the confluence of Nevada Creek with the Blackfoot River will be open from November 1, 1984 - March 31, 1985.

LIMIT: In the area comprised of Trapping Districts 1 & 2, the season limit shall be seven (7) beaver per trapper.

November 1, 1984, through April 15, 1985: Trapping Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, except portions along the Yellowstone River and Upper Madison Beaver Management Area.

January 15, 1985, through February 15, 1985: That portion of District 7 along the Yellowstone River from the bridge at Custer to Hwy. 22 bridge at Miles City.

Limit: Trapping Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Unlimited, except Upper Madison Beaver Management Area. See special management area regulations.
(See pelt tagging.)

CLOSED TO BEAVER AND OTTER TRAPPING

Broadwater County: Those portions of Dry Creek, Confederate Gulch, White Gulch, and Avalanche Gulch on public land.

Deer Lodge County: The entire Dry Cottonwood Creek drainage, Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management area.

Granite County: That portion of Rock Creek between Welcome Creek and Wyman Gulch.

Lewis & Clark & Powell counties: Entire East Fork of the Blackfoot River drainage. Landers Fork drainage above its confluence with Bighorn Creek.

Lincoln County: Pipe Creek and its tributaries from the Blue Creek Road to its headwaters.

Madison County: The Ruby River drainage and all its tributaries above the mouth of Short Creek including Short Creek.

Mineral County: Entire Cedar Creek drainage.

Missoula & Mineral counties: The entire Fish Creek drainage.

Missoula County: Josephine, McCormick and Blanchard Creek drainages. Nine Mile Creek Drainage above Pine Creek.

Missoula & Ravalli counties: The entire Lolo Creek drainage; the Bitterroot River (main river and side channels only) from the junction of the East and West Forks to its confluence with the Clark Fork.

Phillips County: Those portions of Lodgepole, Beaver, and Camp Creeks on public land within the Little Rocky Mountains.

Powell County: The entire Willow Creek drainage and the entire Pikes Peak drainage.

Sanders County: Graves Creek, Dry Creeks and Clear Creek and their tributaries.

Teton County: The entire drainages including all tributaries of the South, Middle, West, and North Forks of the Teton River downstream to the U.S. Forest Service boundary.

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TAKING OF FUR ANIMALS DURING THE OPEN SEASON BY ANY MEANS OTHER THAN TRAPPING OR SNARING IS PROHIBITED, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

FUR ANIMAL SEASONS

The state has been divided into seven legally described trapping districts, designated by numbers, wherein the season dates, limits, and species of furbearers which may be taken are specified.

Mink Open Season: November 1, 1984, through December 31, 1984: Trapping Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Muskrat Open Season: November 1, 1984, through March 31, 1985: Trapping Districts 1 & 2.
November 1, 1984, through April 15, 1985: Trapping Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 inclusive, except Freezout Wildlife Management Area and Upper Madison Beaver Management Area. (See special management area regulations.)

Traps may not be set in muskrat houses in Districts 1, 2 & 5. (Feed beds, push ups and bank dens excepted.)

Traps may be set in muskrat houses in Districts 3, 4, 6 & 7 provided the part removed is replaced after insertion of the trap; this also to be done after removal of the trap. It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, leave open, or partially destroy any muskrat house.

Marten Open Season: December 1, 1984, through January 31, 1985: Trapping District 1.
November 1, 1984, through February 28, 1985: Trapping Districts 3 and 5.
December 1, 1984 through February 28, 1985: Trapping Districts 2 and 4.
(See Pelt tagging.)

Otter Open Season: November 1, 1984, through March 31, 1985 Trapping District 1: except Swan drainage which will be open only from November 1, 1984 through December 31, 1984.
January 1, 1985, through March 15, 1985 Trapping District 2: except the Clearwater River drainage which is open from January 1, 1985 through February 15, 1985; the Clark Fork River above Garrison and all tributaries shall be open from January 1, 1985 through March 31, 1985; and the Blackfoot and Nevada Creek drainages and all tributaries above the confluence of Nevada Creek with the Blackfoot River shall be open from November 1, 1984 - March 31, 1985.
November 1, 1984, through April 15, 1985 Trapping Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7: except Upper Madison Beaver Management area, and that portion of Region 7 along the Yellowstone River from the bridge at Custer to Hwy. 22 bridge at Miles City. Otter season in these exceptions will conform to beaver seasons in these areas.

CLOSURES: All areas closed to beaver trapping are also closed to otter trapping. Closures are listed under beaver trapping regulations.

LIMIT: Persons may take and possess only one (1) otter each per season.
(See pelt tagging.)

Wolverine Open Season: December 1, 1984, through January 31, 1985: Trapping Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

LIMIT: Persons may take and possess one (1) wolverine each per season.
(See pelt tagging.)

Wolverine may be taken only by a validated trapping license. Validation available without charge at all DFWP headquarters prior to December 1, 1984 only. Untagged hides of wolverine that are not covered by a current validated license or that have not been presented to FWP personnel by February 10, 1985 with the carcass in good condition shall be subject to confiscation.

Bobcat - Canada Lynx December 1, 1984 through January 31, 1985: Trapping Districts 1, 2, 4, and 5. Bobcat/lynx season will close on 48 hours' notice upon reaching the trapping district or state quota, or on January 31, 1985, whichever occurs first.

December 1, 1984 through February 15, 1985: Trapping Districts 3, 6, and 7. Bobcat/Lynx season will close on 48 hours notice upon reaching trapping district quota or state quota or on February 15, 1985.

LIMITS:

Trapping District	Limit per Trapper	District Quota	
1	1 bobcat and 2 lynx	135 bobcat	35 lynx
2	2 bobcat and 2 lynx	135 bobcat	40 lynx
3	2 bobcat and 1 lynx	380 bobcat	30 lynx
4	3 bobcat and 1 lynx	150 bobcat	15 lynx
5	3 bobcat and 1 lynx	250 bobcat	5 lynx
6	2 bobcat and 1 lynx	75 bobcat	5 lynx
7	5 bobcat and 1 lynx	600 bobcat	5 lynx
		State Quota	
Statewide	18 bobcat and 9 lynx	1,725 bobcat	135 lynx

VALIDATION: Bobcat and Canada lynx may be taken only by hunters or trappers with a validated trapper's license. Validation must be obtained prior to December 1, 1984 and is available free of charge at all Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional offices.

MEANS OF TAKING: Bobcat and lynx may be taken by trapping, snaring or hunting. Houndsmen and other hunters with a validated trapper's license will be allowed to chase and/or kill bobcat during the period trapping season is open. (See Pelt Tagging.)

CHASE SEASON: Chasing only of bobcat by properly licensed houndsmen is permitted from February 1, 1985 through February 28, 1985 except in trapping districts 3, 6, and 7 where chasing only will be permitted from February 16 through February 28, 1985.
(See pelt tagging.)

Fisher OPEN SEASON: December 1, 1984 through January 31, 1985: Trapping District 2. Season will close on 48 hours' notice when a total of ten (10) fisher are taken but no later than January 31, 1985.

LIMIT: Persons may take and possess only one (1) fisher each per season.

Trapping Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 closed. Accidentally trapped fishers that cannot be released alive must be turned in to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. (See Pelt Tagging.)

Black-Footed Ferret CLOSED. Classified as an endangered species in Montana.

Swift Fox CLOSED.

GENERAL BEAVER SEASON REGULATIONS

Owners and lessees of real estate being damaged by beaver may apply for a permit to trap beaver under other provisions of the law. Please see your local game warden for further information.

Only persons in possession of the 1984-85 General Trapper's License may participate in the general beaver season.

Beaver Open Season: November 1, 1984, through March 31, 1985: Trapping District 1, except Swan drainage which will be open only from November 1, 1984 through December 31, 1984.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

MT. HAGGIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA: The Mt. Haggin Area consists of trapping units where a quota of five (5) licensed trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers (except beaver). Trappers will be selected by a randomized drawing. Trappers will be able to select an area to trap in the order of names drawn. The last name will not have a choice but will be assigned an area. Trappers wishing to take predators must see Mike Frisina for a trapping permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, trapper's license number by October 1, 1984 to:

Mike Frisina, Wildlife Biologist
1330 W. Gold Street
Butte, MT 59701

FREEZOUT LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA: The Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area is divided into six (6) trapping units. Two trapping seasons are designated - fall (November 1, 1984 to December 31, 1984) and spring (January 1, 1985 to March 31, 1985). Unit Six is closed to trapping during the fall season. Trappers will be selected by randomized drawing. Prior to the drawing, each trapping unit is assigned a number and is awarded to the trapper with the corresponding rank on the priority list.

Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, trapper's license number and indicate the season for which they wish to be considered by October 1, 1984 to:

Don Childress, Wildlife Biologist
Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area
Box 488
Fairfield, MT 59436

CANYON FERRY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA: The Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area is divided into five (5) trapping units. Trappers will be selected by a random drawing. Trappers will be able to select an area to trap in the order the names are drawn. The last name will not have a choice, but will be assigned an area.

No trapping will be allowed on the area until the end of the pheasant hunting season.

Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, trappers license number by October 1, 1984 to:

Jeff Herbert, Wildlife Biologist
Box 661
Townsend, MT 59644

UPPER MADISON BEAVER MANAGEMENT AREA described as: Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties that include all of the Madison River drainage upstream from the Earthquake Lake Dam described as follows: Beginning at the outlet of the Earthquake Lake Dam on the Madison River, then northerly to U.S. Highway 287, thence northeasterly to the intersection of Rock Creek and thence up Rock Creek to the Beaverhead-Gallatin National Forest boundary, thence northerly on said boundary to the Madison River-Gallatin River divide, then easterly along said divide to the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park, thence south along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line, thence westerly and northerly along the state line to the western boundary of the Gallatin National Forest, thence northerly along this boundary to the Madison River, thence easterly along said river to the outlet of the Earthquake Lake Dam, the point of beginning.

The upper Madison trapping area consists of seven (7) units for beaver and otter with quotas for each species. Trapping season is October 15, 1984 through April 30, 1985 by permit only. Trapping units will be allocated based upon a random drawing from written trapper applications. Trappers may select a trapping unit in the order their names are drawn. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, trappers license number by October 1, 1984 to:

Graham Taylor, Wildlife Biologist
Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
8695 Huffine Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715